

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5 1. (Currently Amended) A method for launching remote test execution requests applications in a distributed test framework, comprising:

 using a first agent process having an agent launcher interface to launch a first test execution request application having a call interface, wherein the call interface provides a reference to the first agent process such that the first test execution request application
10 and the first agent process communicate with each other during execution of the first test execution request application;

 sending a launch request from the first test execution request application to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process as provided by the call interface of the first test execution request application,
15 wherein the launch request specifies a second test execution request application to be launched, and wherein the launch request defines required attributes of an unidentified test computer system processing resource necessary to execute the second test execution request application thereon;

 operating the agent launcher to send a request to a system controller requesting
20 identification of a test computer system processing resource having the required attributes necessary to execute the second test execution request application;

 operating the system controller to identify the test computer system processing resource having the required attributes necessary to execute the second test execution request application; and

launching the second test execution request application on the identified test computer system processing resource having the attributes defined in the launch request.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second
5 test execution request application is launched by a second agent process executing on the identified test computer system processing resource.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second
agent process is registered with a look up service, the registering being configured to
10 advertise the attributes of the identified test computer system processing resource to the system controller via the look up service.

4. (Cancelled)

15 5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the system controller is configured to search the look up service to locate a test computer system processing resource having attributes substantially matching the attributes defined in the launch request.

20 6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the second test execution request application includes a second call interface, and the second call interface includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization values for the second test execution request application.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the agent launcher interface of the first agent process further includes parameters that provide initialization values for the second test execution request application.

5 8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the initialization values provided by the parameters of the agent launcher interface of the first agent process can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call interface of the second test execution request application.

10 9. (Currently Amended) A system for launching remote test execution requests applications in a distributed test framework, comprising:

a first agent process executing on a first test computer system processing resource, wherein the first agent process includes an agent launcher interface; and

a first test execution request application having a call interface that provides a
15 reference to the first agent process such that the first test execution request application and the first agent process communicate with each other during execution of the first test execution request application, wherein the first test execution request application is capable of sending a launch request to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process, the launch request specifying a
20 second test execution request application to be launched and defining required attributes of a second test computer system processing resource without specifically identifying the second test computer system processing resource.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a system controller in communication with the first agent process, the system controller defined to receive a test computer system ~~processing resource~~ identification request from the agent launcher interface of the first agent process, the system controller
5 further defined to search a look up service to identify a test computer system ~~processing resource~~ having the required attributes defined in the launch request.

14. (Cancelled)

10 15. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the second test execution request ~~application~~ includes a second call interface, and the second call interface further includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization values for the second test execution request ~~application~~.

15 16. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the agent launcher interface of the first agent process further includes parameters that provide initialization values for the second test execution request ~~application~~, wherein the initialization values can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call interface.

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17. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for launching remote test execution requests ~~applications~~ in a distributed test framework, comprising:

a code segment that receives a reference to a first agent process, wherein the
25 reference can be utilized to access the first agent process during execution;

a code segment that receives initialization parameters for a test execution request application, wherein the initialization parameters can be used to set initial values for specific parameters of the test execution request application; and

5 a code segment that calls an agent launcher interface of the agent process using the reference, wherein a request to launch a second test execution request application is sent to the agent launcher interface, and wherein required attributes of an unidentified test computer system processing resource necessary to execute the second test execution request application are passed to the agent launcher process.

10 18. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the required attributes are utilized to select a test computer system processing resource having substantially matching attributes to execute the second test execution request application.

15 19. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein the selected test computer system processing resource is selected from a list of test computer systems processing resources advertised on a look up service.

20 20. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 19, wherein the selected test computer system processing resource includes a second agent process, and wherein the second agent process launches the second test execution request application.

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